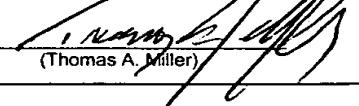


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to:  
USPTO, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450  
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Dated: May 20, 2004      Signature:   
(Thomas A. Miller)

Docket No.: 29020/96007B2  
(PATENT)

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:  
Bill Hoerner et al.

Application No.: 09/249,916

Art Unit: 3634

Filed: February 12, 1999

Examiner: B. A. Lev

For: COUPLING MECHANISM AND PANEL FOR  
SECTIONAL DOOR

### PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

### INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

In response to the Office Action dated November 20, 2003, finally rejecting claims, and in conjunction with the Request for Continued Examination (RCE) filed concurrently herewith, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 3 of this paper.

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